

ARTICLES OF INQUIRY

Concerning

Matters ECCLESIASTICAL,

Exhibited

By the Right Reverend Father in God

WILLIAM

By Divine permission

Lord Bishop of St. ASAPH,

To the Church-Wardens and Sidesmen of
every Parish within his Diocese, at his ~~first~~^{first}
~~the~~ Episcopal Visitation held in the ~~second~~^{second}
Year of his Consecration.

LONDON, Printed by M. Clarke, 1682.

The Tenour of the Oath to be Admini-
ministred to the Church-Wardens
and Side-men.

You shall swear that according to the
best of your skill and knowledge
you will present all such persons and
things as you know to be presentable
by the Ecclesiastical Laws of this
Realm. So help you God.

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ARTICLES OF VISITATION and INQUIRY.

TIT. 1.

Concerning God and Religion.

ARe there any in your Parish that are Blasphemers of the Majesty of God, or Scoffers at the Christian Religion, or that derogate from the Authority or sufficiency of the Scriptures, or that deny any of the Articles of the Christian Faith?

2. Are there any that deny the Church of *England* to be a true and Apostolick Church, and to have in her all things necessary to Salvation? Or that affirm the 39 Articles agreed upon by the Archbishops and Bishops, and whole Clergy, *Anno Dom. 1562.* to be erroneous in any part, or such as cannot with a good Conscience be subscribed to?

3. Are there any that accuse the Form of Gods Worship in the Church of *England*, contained in the Book of Common-Prayer, to be Corrupt, Superstitious, Unlawful, or Repugnant to the Scripture? Or the Form of

Consecrating or Ordaining Bishops, Priests, or Deacons, to be Antichristian or repugnant to the Scripture, or to the practice of the Primitive Church?

TIT. I.

Concerning the Clergy and their Duty.

1. Hath your Parson or Vicar been legally inducted into his Benefice? Did he within two Moneths after his Induction read the 39 Articles in time of Divine Service in the Church, and publickly declare his assent to them? Hath he read the Book of Common-Prayer, and declared publickly his Assent and Consent to the use of all things therein contained, in the time limited, and in the manner prescribed, in the Act of Parliament last made for the Uniformity of publick Prayer, and printed before the Common-Prayer-Book? And hath he publickly read in your Church a Certificate of his Subscription, declaring the unlawfulness of taking up Arms against the King, and also his conforming to the Liturgy of the Church, within such time, and in such manner as is required by the same Act?

2. Hath he obtained, or is he vehemently suspected to have procured his Benefice by money, or any Symoniacal Contract?

3. Is he resident upon his Benefice, and in his Parsonage or Vicarage house? Or if legally dispensed with, is his place supplied by a sufficient Curate allowed by the Ordinary?

4. And hath such Curate a Competent allowance according to the value of the Living? And if the Parson

or

or Vicar be resident with a Curate, doth he himself once a moneth at least, read Common-Prayer openly in the Church; and (if occasion be) administer each Sacrament in due manner and form as the Liturgy prescribes?

5. Is the Minister of your Parish one that gives a good example to others? Is he a man of a sober, chaste, honest, and peaceable conversation? Does he keep to his Calling, and not frequent Alehouses? Is he given to Gaming? Is he familiar with scandalous persons, or such as are under Excommunication? Does he follow any Trade, or Hand-labour? Doth he wear unseemly Apparel, not befitting his Function? Is he careful to procure Peace, and make up Breaches amongst his Neighbours? Doth he endeavour to reduce Popish Recusants, and other Sectaries, from their Errours, by seasonable applications, sober conferences, and calling in the advice and direction of Neighbour Ministers for his better assistance when occasion requires?

6. Doth he read distinctly and reverently the Divine Service, without diminution, addition, or alteration, on Sundays and Holydays, and all other times appointed by the Church? Doth he upon Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, read the Litany as is required? Doth he admonish such as use to come late to the Service, or to depart before it be ended, and such as absent themselves without any sufficient cause?

7. Doth he administer the Sacrament of Christs Body and Bloud so often that every Parishioner may communicate thrice at least in the Year? Doth he (as the Law requires) refuse to admit them that live in any notorious sin, or are manifestly out of charity with their Neighbours, shewing no sorrow or repentance for their faults?

faults? And doth he from time to time, according to Law, give an Account to the Ordinary of those whom for these or the like reasons he hath put by, from receiving the Sacrament?

8. Doth he on the Sunday or Holiday before the Communion, give notice thereof in the Church, and read one of the Exhortations fitted for that purpose in the Common-Prayer-Book? and in case he sees the people negligent in coming, doth he admonish them in the form there fitted for that occasion?

9 Doth he administer holy Baptism at the Font publickly; and not elsewhere, unless upon weakness of the Infant, or very urgent occasion? Doth he exhort all to bring their Children to publick Baptism in the Church, unless in such Cases of danger, or other necessity? Doth he take care that none born in or out of Wedlock depart this life unbaptised, through his negligence or delay?

10. Doth he baptise any without Godfathers or Godmothers? Or doth he admit any to answer as such, who have not received the holy Communion?

11. Doth he, in this and all other Ministrations, observe the Rules, Rites, and Directions of the Church; and with reverence, decency, and gravity perform every Office (as occasion requires) wearing his Surplice with a Hood (if a Graduate) as he is required by Authority and Customs of the Church?

12. Is he careful to visit the Sick, of what condition or persuasion soever? Doth he endeavour to prepare them for the due reception of the holy Communion; and exhort them to charity and good works, as the Church requires?

13 Doth he (having no lawful Impediment) preach one Sermon every Lords Day in his own Cure, or some other

other adjoining? Doth he, in case there be no Sermon, read one of the Homilies allowed by the Church? Doth he, in his Prayer before every Sermon mention the Kings Majesty in his due stile and title, the Queen, the Royal Family, and all other Persons for whom Prayer is required by the Canon?

14. Doth he diligently Catechize the Youth of the Parish for half an hour or more, at Evening Prayer every Sunday and Holyday? And doth he take care to bring or send them to the Bishop for Confirmation so soon as they are fit to receive it?

15. Doth he bid and observe the Holydays, Fasting-days, and other Solemn days, for which particular Services are appointed; giving notice of them to the Parishioners in time of Morning Service the Sunday next before? Doth he use Perambulation about your Parish in Rogation Week?

16. Doth he celebrate Matrimony without Banes or Licence, or in any other place than the Church, or any other hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Forenoon?

17. Doth your Minister admit any Woman bringing forth the Child of Adultery or Fornication, to be Churched, without licence from the Ordinary?

18. Doth he refuse to bury any that are brought to to the Church; except such as die unbaptized, or are excommunicate, or such as have laid violent hands on themselves?

19. Are the *Fifth day of November*, the *Thirtieth of January*, and the *Nine and twentieth of May* yearly kept, and devoutly observed as Holydays; and such Prayers and Thanksgivings made to Almighty God as are prescribed and enjoined to be used on those days respectively?

20. Is the Statute of the 21 Year of the Reign of King *James*, made and provided against Swearing and Cursing, distinctly read in your Church twice in every year, upon some Sunday after Evening Prayer, as that Law requires?

21. Is there any one dwelling in your Parish, who having formerly taken holy Orders, hath quitted his Profession, and lives now as a Layman? Or is there any Minister that resides in your Parish, who hath been deprived, or suspended, or inhibited from the exercise of his Ministry? If there be any such, how do they now behave themselves? and what course of life do they follow?

T I T. 3.

Inquiries concerning the Parishioners.

1. **H**Ave you any in your Parish, who wilfully and without lawful impediment, absent themselves from Morning or Evening Prayer upon Sundays, or other days and times appointed by Law; or that come late, or depart before the blessing? Are there any that upon those solemn days open their Shops, or imploy themselves in their usual Trades, or Labours, or command or suffer their Servants so to do? Doth any that keep an Inn or Alehouse in your Parish suffer any Person to drink, or play, or to tarry in his house (except in case of Sicknes) in time of Divine Service? Do any of your Parishioners prophane the Lords Day, or behave themselves irreverently in the house of God? Are there any that use to keep company with persons that are under Excommunication? Are there any that scoff and deride, or otherwise reproach

reproach those who do publick penance for any Crime in obedience to Authority?

2. Are there any in your Parish that forsake the publick worship of God, or that join themselves to Conventicles?

3. Are there any who hinder the Minister of your Parish from performing any of the Offices of the Church according to his duty? Or that interrupt and disturb him in it, by walking, talking, or other rude and undecent behaviour?

4. Are there any among you of understanding unbaptized? are there any children baptized by a Popish Priest or by any other person not in Orders of the Church of *England*? Are there any that refuse to send their children to Baptism in the Church publickly, unless in cases of danger or necessity? And in such cases, are they careful to procure them due baptism at home?

5. Are there any in your Parish of years of discretion, and not yet confirmed by the Bishop, that upon any pretence refuse or neglect Confirmation? or any Parents or Guardians that refuse to prepare their Children for, or to send them to Confirmation? Or are there any Confirmed, and of the Age of sixteen years, that come not to the Lords Supper three times in the Year at least, of which the Feast of Easter to be one? Or any that forsake their own Parish to receive it elsewhere?

6. Are there any persons in the Parish who live as Man and Wife, being within the prohibited degrees? Are there any who have been married without Banes or Licence from the Ordinary? Or have any countenanced, or been present at such clandestine Marriages? Or do any Strangers newly come into the Parish, cohabit and live together as Man and Wife, who are under suspicion

of not being married according to Law? Are there any that being lawfully separated, have married again, or live together as married? And do any who have been lawfully married, live asunder?

7. Are there any Parents or Masters of Families, that refuse to send their Servants or Children to be instructed by their Minister in the Church Catechism according to Order? Are there any Popish Recusants or Sectaries that keep private Conventicles in your Parish, or that resort to them elsewhere? Are there any that endeavour to seduce and draw others from the Religion in this Church established? Or that disperse Popish Books, or Writings of Sectaries, to make Factions and pervert the People?

8. Is there any part of the Stock of the Church, or any Legacy (bequeathed to the Church, or other pious uses) perverted or concealed, or otherwise imployed than was intended by the Donor? Are there any Wills of persons deceased, concealed, or unproved? Or any Goods of persons dying intestate, administered without lawful Authority?

9. Are there any that refuse to pay their Churchmize or Leawne?

10. Are there any in your Parish whom you know to be common Swearers, Cursers, or Drunkards; or to live in Fornication, Adultery, or Incest, or to be given to filthy Talk, or making Strife among Neighbours? Are there any that lie under a common Fame for any of these things? Are there any that take upon them, or are commonly reputed to be Conjurers or Witches? are there any that resort to them as such, for their advice or assistance?

TIT. 4.

*Concerning Church-wardens, Side-men, Parish-Clerks,
and Sextons.*

1. **A**Re your Churchwardens chosen yearly, and according to the Use and Custom of the Parish? Have the former Church-wardens given up their Accounts before the Minister and Parishioners, and delivered the money, and whatever they had belonging to the Church, into your hands by Bill indented? Have they concealed any Offences which ought to have been detected in order to reformation?
2. Do any molest you the Church-wardens for Presenting Offenders, or in the execution of any other part of your Office?
3. Doth your Minister take care that they whose duty it is, do provide wholsom Wine, fine white Bread, against every Communion, according to the number of the Communicants, with clean Vessels, Linen, and all Utensils necessary and decent for that sacred Service? And do any abuse the holy Table with prophane and vulgar usages?
4. Have you a Parish Clerk of the Age of 20. years at least, of a sober and honest behaviour and sufficiently qualified to assist and attend your Minister in reading, Writing, Singing, and making the several Responsals in the Liturgy? Is he paid the accustomed Wages, Dues, and Perquisites belonging to his place? Doth he diligently attend the duty of his place in every respect? Doth he (or your Sexton) open the Church doors, and lock them again at due times? Doth he keep the Church clean,

and carefully look to the Books, and all things committed to his charge? Doth he ring or toll the Bells at the accustomed hours before Prayers, that the People may have sufficient warning to come to Church? Doth he upon notice given of any person passing out of this life, toll a Bell to summon devout and charitable People to recommend the soul of such dying persons to the grace and mercy of God?

T I T. 5.

Inquiries concerning the Churches and Chappels, with their Possessions, Ornaments, and Utenfils.

1. **I**S your Church or Chappel, and the Steeple or Tower thereof, in good repair, and decently kept and lookt after, as well within as without? Are the Seats well maintained, and conveniently placed, the Windows well glazed? Is the Roof well covered, the Floor kept paved, plain and even? Are all things in decent and orderly sort? Have any new Pews been lately erected in the Chancel or Body of the Church, without the leave of the Ordinary? And is your Churchyard sufficiently fenced? And hath any one encroacht upon it, or cut down any Trees that have been there growing? Have any Bells, Lead, or other Materials of your Church or Chappel been imbezelled? and by whom?

2. Have you a decent Font of Stone, set in the ancient and usual place for administration of Baptism? Have you a decent Table commodiously placed in the Chancel, for the celebration of the Holy Communion, with a decent Carpet to cover it, and a fair linen Cloth over

over it, when there is a Communion? Have you a silver Chalice with a Cover, a Flagon of Pewter, or of purer metal, for the Wine, with a Plate for the Bread, and a fair linen cloth for covering the consecrated Elements?

3. Hath your Minister a decent Pew or Desk, for reading Divine Service, and a Pulpit for preaching, both conveniently placed? And a comely Surplice provided and washed at the charge of your Parish? Have you the Bible in the largest Volume and last Translation, the Common-Prayer-Book, and the Books of Homilies in the Welsh Tongue; and also the Common-Prayer-Book in English, as the last Act of Uniformity requireth? Have you a Register Book of Parchment, and therein the names of all persons married, christned, and buried in your Parish, duly registred from time to time? Have you a Table of the degrees prohibited in marriage, set up in your Church or Chappel? Have you the Book of Canons and Constitutions, with the 39 Articles, a Book to write down the names of all Strangers that preach in your Parish, a Book for the Church-wardens Accounts, and an Inventory of all things belonging to the Church?

4. Are the Creed, the Ten Commandments, the Lords Prayer, and other choice Sentences of Scripture, set up in your Church according to the Canon?

5. Have you a strong Chest with three Locks and Keys to receive the Alms for the Poor? And is one of those Keys in the custody of the Minister? And have you another Chest for keeping the Books and other Furniture of the Church?

6. Is the house of your Parson or Vicar, with all Out-houses thereto belonging, kept in good repair? Hath any one made any encroachment upon any part of the Glebe; or have any Lands been alienated, or exchanged without sufficient Authority? Have you a perfect Terroir in parch-

ment mentioning all Lands, Meadows, Orchards, Gardens, Tenements and Cottages belonging to your Parsonage, or Vicarage ; shewing also what Tithes, portions of Tithes, or other Profits, within and without your Parish, do belong to the same? And if all Tithes are not paid in kind, how many, and what are the *medi decimandi* prescribed to? And which are ancient, beyond hopes of being destroyed, and which have commenced within memory, or are at least disputable? What right hath the Minister yet in the Church (as to Seats and Burying-places) left unprejudiced by prescriptions of the Laity? and how much of the repair of the Church, and Fence of the Churchyard lies upon the Rector or Vicar; and how much upon the Parish in general; and how much upon particular estates; and what are the shares? And what Seats are erected within the Chancel, and when? (if within memory.)

TIT. 6.

Inquiries concerning Hospitals, Schools, Schoolmasters, Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.

1. **I** S there in your Parish any Hospital, Alms-house, or Free-School? Who is Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue? What Stipends belong to the Governours or Masters of the same? Are they governed, and is the Revenue employed according to Law, with due regard to the Founders Intention?

2. Doth any in your Parish take upon him the Office of a Schoolmaster, either publickly, or in any private house, without Licence from his Ordinary? Doth your Schoolmaster come himself, and cause his Scholars to come to Church duly, to the publick worship of God by Law appointed? Doth he instruct them in the Church Catechism, and no other, without leave from the Bishop? Is he a man of good
life,

life, and doth he teach his Scholars to be so by good Government as well as by his Example?

3. Do any in your Parish practise Physick having taken no Degree in that Faculty in either of the Universities of this Realm? Doth any one practise Chirurgery, or the Office of a Midwife, without licence from the Ordinary?

TIT. 7.

Inquiries concerning Church Officers.

1. **A**Re there any Ecclesiastical Officers, as Register, Proctor, Apparitor, or other Minister of the Ecclesiastical Court, that take or exact Gratuities, or unaccustomed Fees for expedition; or extort any greater Fees, than such as are allowed by the Table of Fees ratified in the year 1597. (which Table is or ought to be set up in the Court where you make your Presentments.) Are there any of the Officers of this Court that do any way aggrieve or oppress you or any other of his Majesties Subjects.

2. Hath the Register or any other Officer, for any reward or fee excused from appearance, or unduly dismissed any Offender that hath been presented in this Court by you or any other Church-wardens to your knowledge? Is there any that hath otherwise neglected or abused his Office to your knowledge?

3. Hath any Apparitor, or Sumner, under pretence of Authority, cited or summoned any person unlawfully, or taken any reward for the concealing of any offence or sin, or the avoiding the punishment of the Offenders? And who be they that have done so? or do they take any Fees not accustomable? Have they threatned any to prosecute them if they have no reward? And do they summon any without a Citation first had from the Court?

4. Hath any person in your Parish paid any money for
Commutation

Commutation of Penance for any crime of Ecclesiastical cognizance? and if so, how hath it been disposed of?

It is not required or expected that any one of the Churchwardens or Sides-men of any Parish should impeach or accuse himself of any fault enquired of in these Articles. Nevertheless the faults of any one of them may and ought to be Presented by the rest. And if the Church-wardens or Sides-men will not do their duty herein, yet the Minister of every Parish, or in his absence the Curate, (being the persons that should have the chief care for the suppressing of Sin, and promoting true Religion, and keeping good order in their Parishes) may present the crimes and defaults afore-mentioned, and such other things, (being of Ecclesiastical cognizance) which shall be thought to require due Reformation.

But that the Church-wardens and Sides-men may not think themselves the less obliged because others are concerned with them in this duty; they ought to consider that their due performance of it is the ordinary means by which so many Evils are to be redrest. And therefore if they should wilfully refuse or neglect to discover such things as they know, or have heard by common Fame, to be amiss in their Parish, the Sin will lie at their doors; for which they must give an account before God; and they are not to expect that the Bishop will charge himself with it, as he must, if he should not execute the Laws upon them for their omissions.

F I N I S.